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PORT

OF THE

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Borough Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

For the Year ending
31st December, 1961.

Public Health Staff.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

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Glen Tor, Villa Road, Torrington.

Telephone 3222.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR and BOROUGH SURVEYOR :

P. F. R. E. SYMONS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices, 6, Halsdon Terrace, Torrington.

Telephone 2164.

COMMITTEES :

HOUSING, SANITARY, BUILDING and
IMPROVEMENTS, SPECIAL SEWERAGE.



Council Offices,
6, Halsdon Terrace,
Great Torrington.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

We beg to submit our Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

During the year the general health of the Borough was very good. There was an epidemic of influenza, with two deaths, in January-February : an epidemic of whooping cough occurred during the early months of the year, and one of measles in the month of July—both these latter epidemics were confined almost exclusively to school-children.

The corrected birth rate was 17.6 per 1,000 population ; the figure for the whole of England and Wales was 17.4, which was the highest since 1948.

The corrected death rate was 13.1 per 1,000 population ; that for England and Wales was 12.0 per 1,000 home population.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

C. F. R. BRIGGS,

Medical Officer of Health.

P. F. R. E. SYMONS,

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

Borough of Great Torrington.

1961

CHIEF INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS.

Agriculture.
Cattle Breeding Centre.
Glove Making.
Milk Factory.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (statute acres)	....	....	....	....	3,592
Mid-year Population (estimated)	....	....	....	....	2,890
Number of Inhabited Houses	....	....	....	....	978
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	£37,065
Product of Penny Rate	....	....	....	....	£151 0s. 11d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	20	24	44
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Comparability factor for births—1.13

Corrected birth rate per 1,000 population	17.6	England & Wales 17.4
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Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	—	England & Wales 18.7
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The total number of births which took place within the Borough during the year was 65 : this figure includes one pair of twins. The average for the previous five years was 57. There were 37 births in Torrington Cottage Hospital, the maternity section of which was closed from the end of May owing to shortage of staff.

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
....	24	36	60

Comparability factor for deaths—0.63

Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	13.1	England & Wales 12.0
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Infant Mortality			
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	—	1	1
			England & Wales
Rate per 1,000 live births		22.2	21.4

(The infant mortality rate for England and Wales
was the lowest ever recorded).

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	—	1	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 week	—	1	1

Causes of Death				Male	Female
Coronary disease, angina ....	....	....	....	5	8
Heart disease with high blood pressure ....	....	....	....	—	1
Other heart disease ....	....	....	....	6	5
Vascular disease of nervous system ....	....	....	....	—	6
Other disease of circulatory system ....	....	....	....	—	3
Influenza ....	....	....	....	—	2
Pneumonia ....	....	....	....	2	2
Bronchitis ....	....	....	....	1	1
Cancer of stomach ....	....	....	....	1	—
Cancer of lung ....	....	....	....	3	—
Cancer of uterus ....	....	....	....	—	1
Cancer, other ....	....	....	....	1	4
Diabetes ....	....	....	....	—	1
Enteritis ....	....	....	....	—	1
Disease of prostate ....	....	....	....	3	—
Other diseases ....	....	....	....	1	1
Accident ....	....	....	....	1	—

Age at Death Table

Age at Death				Male	Female
Under 1 year ....	....	....	....	—	1
1–15 ....	....	....	....	—	—
6–15 ....	....	....	....	—	—
16–25 ....	....	....	....	—	—
26–35 ....	....	....	....	—	—
36–45 ....	....	....	....	—	—
46–55 ....	....	....	....	1	—
56–65 ....	....	....	....	4	4
66–75 ....	....	....	....	7	8
76–85 ....	....	....	....	10	11
86 and over ....	....	....	....	2	12
Average age at death				75	78

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was an epidemic of influenza, with two deaths, in January and February. There was an epidemic of whooping cough in the early months of the year, and an epidemic of measles during the month of July. The following cases of infectious disease were notified :—

Measles	....	....	....	....	74
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	41
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	17
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	16
Dysentery	....	....	....	....	7
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	1

Poliomyelitis

Vaccination against poliomyelitis continued during the year. By the month of May a fourth dose of the vaccine became available for all primary school-children. There has been no case in Torrington for many years.

Tuberculosis

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year. The following cases were on the register at the end of the year :—

			Male	Female
Pulmonary	....	....	9	7
Non-pulmonary	....	....	3	—

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Torridge View, Torrington, in March : they came to Torrington again in July, when a number of school-children were examined. The total numbers of people examined were 40 male and 106 female—these numbers include 65 children.

Venereal Disease

No case came to our notice during the year. There are facilities for clinic treatment in Barnstaple.

CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

Expectant mothers are given ante-natal care by their own doctors, by the District Nurse/Midwife, and (where applicable) by the maternity staff of the hospital where they are booked for confinement. Mothercraft classes are held fortnightly by the District Nurse/Midwife, in co-operation with the Health Visitor.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE AND HOME NURSING.

The Queen's Institute District Nurse/Midwife is resident in Torrington. She has a motor car, and is supplied with all modern equipment for domiciliary midwifery as well as for home nursing. Twenty-seven confinements were conducted during 1961.

HEALTH SERVICES AND CARE OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

The County Health Visitor visits all mothers in their homes after confinement. She visits all children up to school age where necessary. She supervises the Child Welfare Clinic, held fortnightly.

WELFARE FOODS SERVICE.

From June 1st, 1961, vitamin supplements—concentrated orange juice, cod liver oil, and vitamins A and D—were sold, without the use of tokens, at prices which covered their cost to the Government. They were available for expectant and nursing mothers, for children up to the age of five years and one month, and for handicapped children.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

County grants may be made, in cases of necessity, towards the cost of providing home helps when required during confinements or at times of sickness.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

As before, the County Ambulance is operated by the British Red Cross Society, and is maintained by Heard's Garage, Torrington. All calls have been answered promptly and efficiently.

Patients carried during 1961	....	....	461
Total mileage	....	....	11,925

TORRINGTON COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

Patients admitted during 1961	....	....	164
Maternity Cases	....	....	37
Out-patients	....	....	603
Total out-patient attendances	....	....	704

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE.

When the South Western Division of the National Blood Transfusion Service came in October, 89 volunteers gave blood. For some of these persons it was the second donation of the year.

SALE OF ICE CREAM.

No ice cream is manufactured within the Borough. Only prepacked ice cream is sold and the shops retailing same are all registered. Storage facilities are satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959. Part I of the Act.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	3	2	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	19	9	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		22	11	NIL	NIL	

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred			
				To H. M. Inspector (5)	By H. M. Inspector (6)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)

Overcrowding (S.2)	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	9
(a) Insufficient	...	...	...	10	2	2	...	...	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	NIL	NIL

OUTWORK—Sections (110 and 111). Part VIII of the Act.

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	13	239	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	13
	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

RAINFALL.

Details of rainfall during recent years are as follows :—

	1961	1960	1959	1958
January	6.03ins.	4.03	5.41	4.29
February	3.22	3.46	0.23	4.06
March ....	.40	2.14	3.63	0.74
April	4.18	3.10	2.86	1.01
May	1.18	1.60	1.32	3.26
June ....	.76	1.25	1.40	2.73
July	2.92	5.77	3.08	2.69
August	3.54	4.63	1.01	3.96
September	3.83	5.35	0.31	6.39
October	7.65	7.54	5.84	4.10
November	2.82	7.42	9.30	3.08
December	4.11	6.93	8.79	3.94
Total	40.64	53.22	43.18	39.25

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Generally, the arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal within the borough are good.

The sewage disposal plant is overloaded and the necessary improvement works have not yet been commenced but at the end of the year tenders were being called for.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough Council is a constituent member of the North Devon Water Board. The water supply has been most satisfactory throughout the year. Quality and quantity have both been good.

Regular samples are submitted for bacteriological examination. Each of the 7 samples taken during the year gave first class results. No coliform bacilli were present in any of the samples.

Samples for chemical analysis show that the water is not plumbo solvent and contains no deleterious substances. The water is slightly alkaline and is free from metals apart from very minute quantities of aluminium and manganese.

HOUSING.

Plans and specifications have been approved for a block of six one-bedroomed flats to be erected in Calf Street.

The flats are intended for elderly people and should be completed in April 1962.

Negotiations are in hand for the acquisition of a site in New Street, on which further flats for elderly people would be erected.

The Council also hope to purchase approximately **2.35 acres** of land in Mill Street for housing purposes.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

The joint scheme operated in conjunction with the Torrington Rural District Council is still working very satisfactorily.

As a result of regular inspections and treatments, few complaints are received and those that are made are quickly dealt with

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughtering has been carried out regularly at two private slaughter-houses within the Borough and Tables A and B give details of animals slaughtered, meat condemned, etc.

TABLE A.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed 	131	1	9	372	474
Number inspected 	131	1	9	372	474
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	2*	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned 	15	—	—	2	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticercosis	11.4	Nil	Nil	1.07	3.2
Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned 	—	—	—	—	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis 	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.7
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned 	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion 	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned 	—	—	—	—	—

* "Emergency" or "Casualty" cases.

TABLE B.

Summary of Meat condemned with cause and weight.

	<i>Part or Organ Condemned</i>	<i>Cause</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Cattle excluding Cows	2 whole and 7 part livers	Cirrhosis	46 lbs.
	2 livers	Cysts and Abscesses	25 lbs.
	3 part livers	Distomatosis	17 lbs.
	1 part liver	Abscess	6 lbs.
Sheep and Lambs	*1 complete lamb's carcase and offal	Deformed, small and unsaleable	27 lbs.
	*1 complete ewe's carcase and offal	Fevered and badly bled	57 lbs.
	1 whole and 1 part liver	Distomatosis	3 lbs.
Pigs	13 heads	Tuberculosis	145 lbs.
	11 livers	Cysts	41 lbs.
	2 part livers	Cirrhosis	4 lbs.
	1 pluck	Pneumonia and Pericarditis	3 lbs.
	2 sets of lungs	Pneumonia and Pleurisy	5 lbs.
	2 sets of lungs and hearts	Pleurisy	6 lbs.
	1 part pig's skin	Urticaria	4 lbs.

* "Emergency Slaughter" or "Casualty" cases.

TABLE C.

Details of other foodstuffs condemned during the year.

<i>Food</i>	<i>Reason for Condemnation</i>	<i>Weight</i>
2 Tins Ox-tongues	Tins blown, meat putrefactive	12 lbs.
1 Tin Corned Beef	Tin blown, meat putrefactive	6 lbs.
1 Tin Brisket of Beef	” ” ” ”	5 lbs.
1 Tin Pork Shoulder	” ” ” ”	10 lbs.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE
DURING THE YEAR.

Allotments and Fields	....	....	....	....	20
Byelaws and Planning Matters	....	....	....	....	55
Cattle and Pannier Markets	....	....	....	....	139
Cemetery and Churchyard	....	....	....	....	99
Drain Testing and Inspecting	....	....	....	....	52
Factories	....	....	....	....	11
Food Premises and Food Inspection	....	....	....	....	15
Housing	....	....	....	....	163
Improvements Grants	....	....	....	....	110
Meat Inspection	....	....	....	....	295
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	62
New Building Work in Progress	....	....	....	....	94
Nuisances	....	....	....	....	14
Petroleum Licensing and Storage	....	....	....	....	5
Playing Field	....	....	....	....	19
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	66
Refuse Collection and Disposal	....	....	....	....	22
Rodent Control	....	....	....	....	2
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	....	....	....	....	209
Street Lighting	....	....	....	....	17
Water	....	....	....	....	10
Total					1,479



